Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~producing a very thin uniform cross-linked hydrocolloid~~ coating of a single cell with a micro-coating ~~produced~~ by formed capillary means comprising the steps of:

placing the cell in a solution of hydrocolloid;

removing the cell from the solution of hydrocolloid by sucking the cell into a capillary ; and

placing the cell in a cross-linking solution after removing the cell from the solution of hydrocolloid, thereby providing the cell with a micro-coating with a thickness of 1 to 5% of the cell diameter, ~~in cases of~~ when the hydrocolloid is iota-carrageenan ~~and~~ or kappa-carrageenan and between 6 to 8% of the cell diameter ~~in cases of~~ when the hydrocolloid is low-methoxy pectin [LMP]~~and~~ or alginate of the hydrocolloid; and storing the cell in solution.

2. (Original) A method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the hydrocolloid is an alginate.

3. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the hydrocolloid is Na-alginate.

4. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the hyrocolloid is low-methoxy pectin (LMP).

5. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the hydrocolloid is either κ or ι carrageenan.

6. (Previously Presented) A method as defined Claim 1, wherein the hydrocolloid solution is in Calcium Adjusted Modified Marc's Ringer (CAMMR) solution.

7. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the cell is a *Xenopus laevis* egg ~~and embryos~~.

8. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the cross-linking solution is a solution of Ca, Ba or K ions.

9. (Original) A method as defined in Claim 8, wherein the cross-linking solution is a solution of $CaCl_2$, $BaCl_2$ or KCl.

10. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in Claim 9, wherein the cross-linking solution of $CaCl_2$ or $BaCl_2$ is at a concentration of from 0.25% and the KCl solution is at a concentration of 0.5%.

11. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in Claim 1, wherein said thin layer coating of hydrocolloid is up to about 50 micrometer in thickness.

13. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the alginate has a high mannuronic acid (M) content.

14. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in Claim 13 wherein the mannuronic acid (M) content of the alginate is from about 29 to about 61 %.

15. to 20. Cancelled.

21. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 1, where the cell or embryo to be coated is ~~maneuvered by~~ removed from said hydrocolloid by sucking the cell or embryo into a thin capillary having an approximate or smaller diameter than the diameter of the cell~~, in such a manner that the coating is forced to perform with a minimal thickness and volume~~ thereby providing a micro-coating.

22. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 1, where the coating is uniform on all sides of the coated cell.

23. Cancelled.

24. Cancelled.

25. (Previously Presented) A method as defmed in claim 1, where the coating forms a microbial shield.

26. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 1, where the coating is resistant to hazardous material.

27. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 1, where the coating acts as an inhibitor against damage during freezing and thawing.

28. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~producing a very thin uniform cross-linked hydrocolloid~~ coating ~~of~~ an embryo with a micro-coating ~~produced~~ formed by capillary means comprising the steps of:

placing the embryo in a solution of hydrocolloid;

removing the embryo from the solution of hydrocolloid by sucking the embryo cell into a capillary; and

placing the embryo in a cross-linking solution after removing the embryo from the solution of hydrocolloid, thereby providing the embryo with a micro-coating with a thickness of 1 to 5% of the embryo diameter, ~~in cases of~~ when the hydrocolloid is iota-carrageenan ~~and~~ or kappa-carrageenan and

between 6 to 8% of the of the embryo diameter ~~in cases of~~ when the hydrocolloid is LMP ~~and~~ or alginate of the hydrocolloid; and

storing the embryo in solution.

29. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in Claim 28, wherein the hydrocolloid is an alginate.

30. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in Claim 28, wherein the hydrocolloid is Na-alginate.

31. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in Claim 28, wherein the hydrocolloid is low- methoxy pectin (LMP).

32. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in Claim 28, wherein the hydrocolloid is either κ or ι carrageenan.

33. (Previously Presented) A method as defined Claim 28, wherein the hydrocolloid solution is in Calcium Adjusted Modified Marc's Ringer (CAMMR) solution.

34. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in Claim 28, wherein the cell is a *Xenopus laevis* ~~egg and~~ embryos.

35. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in Claim 28, wherein the cross-linking solution is a solution of Ca, Ba or K ions.

36. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in Claim 35, wherein the cross-linking solution is a solution of $CaCl_2$, $BaCl_2$ or KCl.

37. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in Claim 36, wherein the cross-linking solution of $CaCl_2$ or $BaCl_2$ is at a concentration of from 0.25% and the KCl solution is at a concentration of 0.5%.

38. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in Claim 28, wherein the alginate has a high mannuronic acid (M) content.

39. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in Claim 38 wherein the mannuronic acid (M) content of the alginate is from about 29 to about 61 %.

40. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 28, where the cell or embryo to be coated is ~~maneuvered by~~ removed from said hydrocolloid by sucking the cell or embryo into a thin capillary having an approximate or smaller diameter than the diameter of the cell~~, in such a manner that the coating is forced to perform with a minimal thickness and volume~~ thereby providing a micro-coating.

41. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 28, where the coating is uniform on all sides of the coated cell.

42. Cancelled.

43. Cancelled.

44. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 28, where the coating forms a microbial shield.

45. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 28, where the coating is resistant to hazardous material.

46. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 28, where the coating acts as an inhibitor against damage during freezing and thawing.